

Date November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to express my concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> of this year the FCC voted to change section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984. This section governs a key element of Community Access Television, the Franchise Fee. All towns and municipalities enter into contracts with cable providers to offer the residents television and internet services. For this opportunity the cable providers pay the town 5% of revenues each year, for the use of public way access (i.e. utility poles) for their cables and equipment.

The Town of Andover cannot afford to lose the benefits derived from the Franchise Fee. This money allows residents to have access to equipment, expertise, local and government programming, school committee and town council, that you would not see on commercial channels.

Here are the primary benefits derived from Cable Access Television:

Access to government meetings and operational transparency within the community. Citizens can keep up to date with governmental events by watching coverage of meetings and events while not being burdened with taking time from work or family to go and sit in the meeting.

#### Financial

Cable Access Television provides a Creative/Educational outlet which gives people access to equipment without having to buy it.

#### Historical

Cable Access Television works to archive old town events for future generations to enjoy, as well as a record of past town governmental decisions.

## Educational

Provide adult classes to help people learn new technologies.

Kids classes to open them to new experiences.

Create educational event coverage which would not be covered by mainstream media.

Provide for college preparedness for high school students interested in the broadcast industry.

## Community

- Provide public space for town groups to meet and mingle.

- Promoting community groups and their messages.

- Community access offers communication platform for dialogue, civic engagement and diverse perspectives not available from commercial media.

I hope that the issues raised above will justify the continuance of much needed revenue provided by the Franchise Fee.

Sincerely,

John F. Zipeto, Member

Board of Directors

Andover Community Television

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CC: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner